

[For Private Circulation.]

REPORT OF AID

GIVEN TO

DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS

IN

1887.

We testify to the need of this charity, and believe that the money given to it will be faithfully and judiciously expended.

W. L. RICHARDSON, M. D.,

Physician of Boston Lying-in Hospital.

HELEN N. BISSELL, M. D.,

Resident Physician of N. E. Hospital for Women and Children.

CHARLES P. PUTNAM, M. D.,

Admitting Physician to Mass. Infant Asylum

OBJECT OF THIS CHARITY.

The object of this charity is :—

1. To give a short convalescence to any mother discharged with a young infant from a maternity hospital, no longer requiring medical care, but not yet able to work, and without means to procure the two or three weeks' rest so much needed at this period; also, occasionally, previous to the admission of applicants to these hospitals, to pay their board for a week or two, in case they are without a home, friendless, and penniless.

2. To find good boarding-places for those infants whose mothers are engaged in domestic service, or earning their living in any way which prevents their retaining the infants under their personal care, and to visit children so placed, in order to be sure that they have the attention which they require. Occasionally, also, a mother who lives in her own home receives temporary assistance.

3. Especially to watch over and befriend those unmarried mothers, who, not yet depraved are in danger of falling into evil from their peculiarly exposed and friendless condition. A large proportion of these are girls under twenty years of age.

In selecting from a large number of applicants those

whom we assist, we are governed by the following considerations:

1st. The love of the mother for her infant, and her corresponding desire to support it and retain it in her care.

2d. The urgent necessity and danger of those young unmarried girls who are without friends who can assist them. This class are usually orphans.

3d. The temporary poverty which is the occasional misfortune of some respectable married women, who often need only a little help for two or three weeks until tided over this period.

On the other hand, we refuse,—

1st. Those who are actually depraved.

2d. Those who regard the care of their infants as a burden from which they wish to be relieved.

3d. Those who, having earned good wages for a considerable time previous to the application, have neglected the opportunity to save money, and thus have less claim than others to receive charity.

4th. Those who have relatives able to assist them.

5th. Those who appear to be permanent paupers (a certain class of women familiar to workers in all charities.)

Our work, therefore, resolves itself into,—

1st. The careful investigation of cases that present themselves.

2d. The selection of good boarding-places for infants, and the constant supervision of infants placed at board.

3d. A friendly and judicious care for the welfare of the younger and more helpless mothers.

REPORT.

We make every year in our Report a brief statement of the object of our work, but find it necessary occasionally to dwell upon one or two points which are sometimes misunderstood by those who apply to us for assistance.

Our main object may be briefly stated thus :

1. To assist a mother, who without aid and advice, might feel obliged to place her infant in an Institution, but who with a little friendly counsel and assistance may be enabled to support both herself and her child.

We gladly befriend a woman who is not married, provided she loves her infant and is willing and able to work for its support. But the assistance is given on the ground of her being a *mother*, anxious to support her child, and not that she is a "*fallen woman*." We consider this an important distinction. We would avoid classing a young woman who is anxious to lead a respectable life with those who have become degraded ; and we do not offer help as a premium on doing wrong. We desire, therefore, not to be confounded with Institutions, which, however necessary and valuable for their own purposes, have for a distinct object the reformation of depraved women.

We often receive applications from those who wish us to take an infant of the hands of a mother who is unable to support it and wishes to give it up for adoption. There are charitable Institutions

which are ready to receive the child of a really destitute and deserving mother, who is rendered, by illness or by some sufficient reason unable to earn its support. There is, however, a comparatively small number of such cases. A large proportion of those who apply to us are able, with temporary aid, to become wholly, or almost wholly, self-supporting. There are a few who require help longer, but they usually become self-supporting after a certain length of time.

To give up a child when it is possible to retain the charge of it, has a demoralizing effect upon a woman's character. It is especially dangerous to a young girl who has taken the first step on a downward course. The best education she can have, and the surest means of awakening and developing her moral nature, is the feeling of responsibility toward the helpless creature which has been committed to her charge. We have watched in many cases the beneficial effect of this care and have seen other cases where the most painful results followed from breaking the link between the child and mother, and we earnestly entreat those who have less experience, to pause and consider the danger, before venturing to take so great a responsibility.

We find that the best arrangement for a mother and infant, is to place them in a family, the mother doing the work of a domestic and receiving small wages in consideration of being allowed to keep her child with her. For an efficient woman it is comparatively easy to obtain a situation and the arrangement is one of mutual advantage to the employer and the employed. We have made a special effort during the last two years to obtain situations of this sort, and have been quite successful, receiving gratifying testimony to the satisfaction of the employers.

It is a greater difficulty to procure a situation of this kind for a young girl, who has not been accustomed to housework, and so is not at first a good domestic; and yet, sometimes a docile and good tempered girl may be trained until her work becomes valuable. It is often worth while to place such a girl in a family, where she

received no wages for a time, but has kind and judicious treatment and is taught to do work which will enable her to be self-supporting in the future. We have sometimes been surprised at the success of such an arrangement—the employer finding that after a time she is compensated for her trouble by obtaining the services of a valuable assistant. We earnestly entreat any one who is willing to take such a young girl into her family to communicate with us. Where the experiment is not successful, the young woman can be received again into our care.

It may be noticed that we have expended a trifle less money in 1887 than in 1886, and have assisted a larger number of persons. Many of those whom we help, receive no pecuniary assistance from us. We merely provide them with employment. Money is needed chiefly during temporary illness; or for a woman who is out of employment for a short space of time; sometimes also when a mother earns nearly enough to support her child, but needs a little help. In the latter case, the mother usually becomes able in a time to earn all she requires.

During the year, eight young women whom we have assisted have married respectably.

We give a brief account of a few cases taken in 1887, or at the end of 1886.

1. German, seventeen. A very youthful looking girl; appears about fourteen years old. No mother; father had not supported her for years, nor seen her, except at long intervals. No other relatives. Earned her own living by domestic service. This girl was extremely fond of her infant. We found her a place in a very good family in the country. Her child is with her. Although childish in appearance, she is industrious and capable, and is a really good domestic. She has been several months in the situation we have found for her, and we hope it will be her home for a long time.

2. Irish-American, seventeen. A timid and gentle girl. Her infant could not remain with her during the summer, as she was

not able to nurse it, and it became feeble for lack of nourishment. It was placed in the Massachusetts Infant Asylum, and we found the mother a situation in a small family in the country. The lady who received her writes: "I am grateful to you for sending me such a really nice girl as —— proves to be."

3. Irish-American, twenty. This young woman has proved one of the best and most satisfactory persons whom we ever assisted. We were obliged to pay her board a week or two while the infant was young, and we were looking for a situation for the mother. The employer (who received both mother and infant) writes warmly in her praise, speaking highly of her character, and of her valuable qualities as a domestic.

4. American, sixteen. Orphan. Though so young, this girl has shown ability, energy and a good disposition, which makes her perfectly capable of earning her own support and her infant's, of whom she is exceedingly fond. She understands general housework; is quick with her needle; takes good care of her infant, and has a docile character and a good temper.

5. English, twenty-two. A young woman of very good disposition, but delicate health. She has been since last summer in a family in a country town, her infant with her. She gives perfect satisfaction, but it requires care to see that she does not overwork herself in her desire to do all that she considers her duty.

6. (Mentioned in Report for 1886) Nova Scotia, (sixteen in '86, now seventeen). Is employed in a family where she has her baby with her. She has lived in this situation some months, and gives entire satisfaction.

We might mention a number of other cases very much like those whose record we have given.

MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE,
MRS. W. C. WILLIAMSON,
MARY R. PARKMAN,
LILIAN FREEMAN CLARKE.

Subscriptions may be sent to Mrs. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE, Jamaica Plain, Mass., or to DR. C. P. PUTNAM, 63 Marlborough street, Boston.

MOTHERS ASSISTED DURING 1887.

Old Cases, (continued from 1886) 71
 New Cases, (first taken in 1887) 151

Whole number assisted in 1887 . 222

Married women, (new cases) . 57

Unmarried women, (new cases) . 94

151

Married women, (old cases) . 14

Unmarried women, (old cases) . 57

71

NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.
 (Married.)

Irish 5

English 3

American 1

German 1

British Provinces 1

Colored 1

Unknown 2

14

NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.
 (Unmarried.)

Irish 12

Irish-American 12

American 9

British Provinces 16

English 2

French-Canadian 1

German-American 1

Scotch 1

Unknown 3

57

NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.
 (Married.)

American 16

Irish 11

Irish-American 7

English 6

British Provinces 5

Scotch 5

Canada 2

French 1

German 1

Swedish 1

Colored 1

English-Irish 1

57

NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.
 (Unmarried.)

British Provinces 23

Irish 20

Irish-American 14

American 18

Swedish 4

Colored 4

English 3

German 1

German-American 1

Scotch 1

French-Canadian 1

Jewess 1

Unknown 2

94

AGE OF NEW CASES.
 (Unmarried.)

16 years old 4

17 " " 2

18 " " 9

19 " " 9

20 years old	14	27 years old	1
21 " "	10	28 " "	2
22 " "	10	29 " "	2
23 " "	6	Over 29 "	1
24 " "	10	Unknown	6
25 " "	3		
26 " "	5		94

MONEY RECEIVED DURING 1887.

Beebe, Mrs. J. Arthur	\$10 00	Lowell, Miss Anna C.	\$100 00
Blake, Mrs. Geo. Baty	20 00	Lyman, Mrs. Arthur T.	50 00
Bradford, Geo.	5 00	Mason, Miss Ellen F.	250 00
Brooks, Mrs. Shepherd	50 00	Mason, Miss Ida M.	200 00
Carter, Mrs. W. S.	5 00	May Miss A. W.	5 00
Case, Mrs. James B.	10 00	Merriman, Mrs. Daniel	40 00
Coolidge, A. C.	5 00	Meyer, Mrs. G. Von L.	100 00
Clarke, Mrs. E. C.	10 00	Motte, Mrs. E. L.	3 00
Curtis, Mrs. C. P. Jr.	10 00	Paine, The Misses	10 00
Curtis, Mrs. Margaret S.	10 00	Parkinson, Mrs. John	10 00
Davis, Miss Annie W.	10 00	Parsons, Miss A. Q. T.	3 00
Dole, Rev. C. F.	5 00	Parsons, Miss G. B.	25 00
Dresel, Mrs. Otto.	20 00	Porter, Miss Helen	5 00
Emerson, Mrs. E. W.	10 00	Quincy, Edmund	5 00
Endicott, Wm. Jr.	100 00	Richardson, Dr. W. L.	25 00
Fields, Mrs. James T.	10 00	Russell, Miss Marian	25 00
Gardner, Mrs. Geo.	25 00	Shaw, Mrs. G. Howland	10 00
Goddard, Miss Matilda	20 00	Tolman, Mrs. E. M. S.	20 00
Greene, Mrs. W. B.	100 00	Walbach, Mrs. P. R.	25 00
Grew, Henry S.	25 00	Wales, Miss M. A.	50 00
Hardy, Mrs. Alpheus	10 00	Waters, Mrs. Clara E. Clement	20 00
Higginson, Geo.	500 00	Weld, Mrs. Isabella M.	50 00
Hodges, Dr. R. M.	5 00	White, Miss Amy	5 00
Hunnewell, F. W.	25 00	White, Mrs. Charles T.	20 00
Kimball, Miss Hannah P.	15 00	Whitney, Miss Eunice	5 00
Kimball, Miss Helen F.	5 00	Williams, Miss Ann	3 00
Kimball, Mrs. D. P.	100 00	Wolcott, Mrs. J. Huntington	50 00

DONATIONS OF CLOTHING.

FOR CHILDREN.

Mrs. W. S. Carter,
 Mrs. E. C. Clarke,
 Mrs. C. K. Cobbe,
 Miss S. H. Wainwright,
 Mrs. Geo. Faulkner,
 Miss E. S. Shumway,
 Mrs. Earnshaw.
 Mrs. S. H. Bertram,
 Miss Ann Williams,
 Mrs. A. S. Porter,

Mrs. Shepherd Brooks,
 Misses Smith.

FOR WOMEN.

Misses Sever,
 A Friend.

FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Boston Sewing Circle, by Miss Loring,
 Benevolent Committee of Church of
 Disciples, by Mrs. A. G. Bow-
 ditch.

DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS IN ACCOUNT WITH
ANNA H. CLARKE, *Treasurer.*

DR.

To Board of women	\$399 15
Board of infants	1,014 72
Clothing of women	180 72
Clothing of infants	177 83
Food and milk	144 68
Fares and Travelling	147 12
Advertising	32 65
Medicine	37 34
Furniture	16 82
Rent	43 00
Printing	36 20
Sundries	104 51
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	\$2,334 29
To Salary of Assistant (gift of Mrs. W. B. Greene and James Freeman Clarke)	452 00
Balance to new account	357 82
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	\$3,144 11

CR.

Jan. 1, 1887. By cash on hand	\$383 11
By Subscriptions during 1887	2,234 00
Gift of Mrs. W. B. Greene for salary of assistant	300 00
Gift of James Freeman Clarke for salary of assistant	152 00
Interest on Bond	70 00
Money returned	5 00
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	\$3,144 11

